

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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S E C R E T USNATO 0415

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR: FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF DATA DISCUSSION

REF: A. USNATO 345 DTG 211352Z JAN 77
B. STATE 15048 DTG 230022Z JAN 77

1. SPC ON JAN 24 CONSIDERED THE CANADIAN DRAFT
MANDATE FOR AN MBFR WORKING GROUP STUDY SYNTHESIZING
IN ONE PAPER ALL MATERIAL RELEVANT TO COUNTING RULES
(REF A).

2. NETHERLANDS REP (MEESMAN) STRONGLY SUPPORTED SUCH
A STUDY ON GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY
HELPFUL FOR SMALL COUNTRIES. BELGIAN REP (CROLLEN)
TOOK THE SAME LINE.

3. FRG REP (SCHNELLER) SAID FRG COULD AGREE THAT THE
WG SEEK TO IDENTIFY ANY SPECIFIC POINTS WHICH WERE
SECRET

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NOT ALREADY COVERED BY EXISTING MILITARY-TECHNICAL
STUDIES. FRG COULD ALSO GO ALONG WITH SYNTHESIZING
ALL RELEVANT MATERIAL IN ONE PAPER, IF A MAJORITY
SUPPORTED THIS PART OF CANADIAN MANDATE.

4. UK REP (HOLMER) SAID UK, LIKE FRG, COULD GO
ALONG WITH THE WG SEEKING TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC
POINTS WHICH HAD NOT YET BEEN STUDIED. HOWEVER
UK HAD NOT DECIDED ON THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF
WG SYNTHESIZING ALL MATERIAL INTO ONE PAPER.

5. US REP (MOORE) CONTINUED TO QUESTION THE UTILITY OF THE WG DOING A STUDY SYNTHESIZING ALL MATERIAL IN ONE PAPER. IF ANYONE CAN IDENTIFY A SPECIFIC AREA WHICH HAD NOT ALREADY BEEN STUDIED, AND WHICH REQUIRES STUDY, THE SPC COULD CONSIDER MANDATING THE WG TO DO A MILITARY-TECHNICAL ANALYSIS IN THAT PARTICULAR AREA. WE STATED, AS AN EXAMPLE, THAT WE COULD GO ALONG WITH A SUPPLEMENTARY WG STUDY ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF REVISED SOVIET SA2/3 DATA, AND MADE THE POINT THAT THIS DID NOT IMPLY US SUPPORT OF RECATEGORIZATION OF AREA AIR DEFENSE UNITS OF SOVIET GROUND FORCES (REF B).

6. SPC AGREED THAT WG WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT DO A PAPER ON COUNTING RULES SYNTHESIZING ALL EXISTING MATERIAL. INSTEAD, WG WILL SIMPLY COMPILE A LIST OF RELEVANT DOCUMENTS AS AN AIDE-MEMOIRE, SIMILAR TO RECENT AIDE MEMOIRE LISTING DOCUMENTS ON VERIFICATION AND STABILIZING MEASURES. WG MAY ALSO IDENTIFY FOR SPC ANY SPECIFIC AREAS NOT COVERED BY EXISTING MILITARY-TECHNICAL STUDIES. SPC WOULD THEN CONSIDER WHETHER OR NOT TO MANDATE ANY NEW WG STUDIES IN SUCH AREAS. THE APPROVED MANDATE READS AS FOLLOWS: "THE MBFR WORKING GROUP IS REQUESTED TO PREPARE A COMPILATION OF ALL AVAILABLE MATERIAL RELATING TO COUNTING RULES OF MANPOWER FOR BOTH ALLIANCE AND WARSAW PACT FORCES AND REPORT BACK TO THE SPC IDENTIFYING, IF NECESSARY, AREAS WHERE USEFUL MILITARY-TECHNICAL
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BACKGROUND STUDIES ON THE SUBJECT MIGHT BE DONE."

7. MBFR WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED AT ITS JAN 25 MEETING THAT STAFF GROUP SHOULD DRAFT SEPARATE AIDE-MEMOIRE LISTING RELEVANT MBFR STUDIES THAT MIGHT, AFTER WG CONSIDERATION, BE INCORPORATED IN MBFR WG COMPENDIUM. STAFF GROUP WILL ALSO PREPARE INFORMAL PAPER LISTING POSSIBLE GAPS IN EXISTING STUDIES THAT SUGGEST FURTHER SPECIFIC MILITARY-TECHNICAL ANALYSIS. WG WILL DISCUSS BOTH PAPERS AT NEXT MEETING ON FEB 8. STRAUSS-HUPE

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